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Characteristics

Skogsrens have a humanoid female form composed entirely of twisted, intertwining vines and branches. Their *"skin,"* if it can be called that, appears to be made of bark and wood, giving it a rough, textured surface. Their arms and fingers extend outward like gnarled branches, and their slender but strong bodies are tightly wrapped in a network of vines. Their faces have human-like features seemingly carved out of wood, with hollow, dark eyes. Their hair is a mass of tangled vines, cascading wildly around their heads, almost like a mane.

Skogsrens typically stand around 1.70 meters tall and weigh approximately 30 kilograms. Despite their fragile appearance, they possess surprising resilience and agility. Their vine-covered bodies are remarkably flexible, allowing them to move with an almost ethereal grace through the forest.

Behavior

Skogsrens are generally solitary creatures, preferring the company of trees to that of other beings. They exhibit human-level intelligence and can communicate, negotiate, seduce with an unnatural, powerful charm, and even form pacts with other creatures. Their seductive charm is a particularly formidable trait, deeply intertwined with their reproductive strategy. When a skogsren seeks to reproduce, it abandons its solitary nature and actively seeks out potential recipients for its transformation process.

The seductive charm of a skogsren is both alluring and insidious, derived from the memories and emotions of their former lives. As skogsrens retain the memories of their previous existence, they can invoke feelings and desires that resonate deeply with their targets. This charm is not limited to physical attraction due to their form but also influences emotions and perceptions. Victims find themselves inexplicably drawn to the skogsren, experiencing a profound sense of peace and fascination that clouds their judgment. The skogsren uses this charm to lure individuals into their embrace, often under the guise of offering comfort, companionship, or understanding.

The charm is particularly effective on those who are emotionally vulnerable or seeking solace. Skogsrens are adept at identifying individuals who are lonely, grieving, or disillusioned. They exploit these vulnerabilities by mimicking the emotional needs and desires of their victims, creating a compelling and seemingly empathetic presence. This manipulation makes it difficult for targets to resist or escape, as the skogsren's familiarity with their emotions makes the allure even stronger.

During the seduction process, the skogsren's charm becomes increasingly potent, making it hard for targets to think clearly or escape. They may employ a combination of enchanting conversation, hypnotic gestures, and emotional

manipulation to disarm and captivate their victims. This charm is a key component of the transformation process, as it ensures that the skogsren's touch is accepted willingly, allowing the transformation to proceed smoothly.

In their natural environment, skogsrens are highly territorial and protective of their forest homes. Even dryads and leshens fear them. Their ability to blend seamlessly with the trees makes them difficult to spot unless they choose to reveal themselves. When they interact with other beings, it is often to protect their territory or to initiate the already mentioned transformation process by using their seductive charm.

Encounters with skogsrens can range from deceptively benign to perilously complex. They can be reasoned with if approached correctly, but angering them or falling prey to their seductive charms can lead to dire consequences. The threat they pose varies, and their ability to enchant and manipulate, coupled with their understanding of emotional vulnerabilities, makes them particularly challenging adversaries. Experienced witchers consider skogsrens a serious challenge, especially when their powerful charm comes into play.

Biology



Like other creatures, such as the aguaras, or the vendigos, skogsrens reproduce by converting others into one of them. The skogsren initiates its reproduction with the so-called "*Skogsra's Kiss*." When a skogsren takes a liking to another being (no matter the race), they offer a gift, which can be as simple as a kiss. If the gift is accepted, the victim begins a slow transformation into a skogsra over ten days, feeling an increasing sense of peace and detachment from their former life.

The transformation process is subtle at first. Within a couple of days, the victim stops feeling the need to eat, as if their stomach is always full. After a few more days, vines start to become visible under the skin and inside the mouth. These vines grow progressively, and within ten days, they envelop the victim entirely, transforming them into a new skogsra.

However, those undergoing transformation do not experience pain or horror. Instead, they feel a profound sense of tranquility and connection to nature. The victims retain their memories but lose their previous life's attachments, fully embracing their new existence as skogsrens. These memories usually work to make the skogsra develop its seductive charm to attract future recipients for reproduction.

Abilities



- **Vine Manipulation:** Skogsrens can control their vine-like appendages with remarkable precision. They use these vines for both offense and defense, striking enemies from a distance or ensnaring them in their grasp. The vines can stretch, retract, and move independently, making them versatile tools in combat.
- **Camouflage:** Skogsrens can blend seamlessly with their forest environment. This natural camouflage allows them to remain hidden from potential threats or prey, emerging only when they choose to engage. Their ability to merge with the surrounding foliage makes them nearly invisible unless they deliberately reveal themselves.
- **Seductive Charm:** They possess an unnatural charm that can captivate and manipulate others. This charm is not merely physical but also emotional, compelling their targets to follow or submit to their will. It is particularly potent during the transformation process, as it helps the skogsra lure individuals into their grasp.
- **Regeneration:** Skogsrens have impressive regenerative abilities. Their plant-like physiology allows them to heal from injuries that would be fatal to

most other creatures. This regeneration helps them recover quickly from wounds and adapt to their environment.

Slaying

Encountering a skogsren in combat presents a significant challenge due to their agility and unique physiology. Skogsrens are not only swift and elusive but also possess formidable natural abilities that make them dangerous adversaries.

In battle, skogsrens utilize their vine-like appendages with precision. They can extend and retract these vines to lash out at enemies from a distance, delivering powerful strikes that can incapacitate foes. Their ability to engage from both long range and close quarters gives them a versatile combat style. This flexibility allows them to strike effectively while maintaining a safe distance from retaliation.

The combat style of a skogsren is further characterized by its strategic use of the environment. Their ability to blend with the forest allows them to ambush opponents unexpectedly. Their movements are fluid and graceful, making it challenging for adversaries to predict their actions or land a hit. They use the natural terrain to their advantage, moving swiftly between trees and using the forest to obscure their presence.

One effective tactic against a skogsren is to disrupt their camouflage. Destroying or burning the surrounding foliage can force them into a more direct confrontation, making it harder for them to blend in and use their environment to their advantage. Fire is particularly effective, as it can cause severe damage and hinder their regenerative abilities. Flames can damage their vine-like bodies and bark-like skin, making fire an essential weapon in any skogsren encounter.

Skogsrens are vulnerable to both cursed oil and silver swords. When cursed oil is applied to a silver sword, it significantly enhances the weapon's effectiveness against these creatures. The cursed oil disrupts the skogsren's natural regenerative processes, making them more susceptible to damage. This disruption allows the sword to inflict more severe and lasting injuries than it otherwise could.

Harvestable Parts

Successfully confronting a skogsren may yield valuable alchemical crafting materials such as the Skogsra's Heart, Archespore Juice, Leshen Resin, and Leshen Fiber.

Rewards

- Skogsra Decoction: A rare and potent decoction, the Skogsra Decoction is known to cure the effects of the Skogsra's Kiss. However, due to the rarity of finding a skogsra, its creation is shrouded in a lot of mystery, and its side effects remain largely unknown. Only the most skilled alchemists dare attempt to craft it, requiring a complex formula and significant time.
- Changing-Sex Elixir: Combined with doppler hormones, this elixir can biologically change a person's sex to the opposite one. Due to the near extinction of dopplers, this elixir is rare to craft and is primarily used by nobles or mages who can afford it. The sex-change process occurs over six months.

Trivia

- Due to their mutations, witchers can resist naturally the transformation for a period of 2 months.
- A bounty of 400 Crowns (100 Scudos in Fabiola) is typically offered for

dealing with a skogsren.

- The monster information is based on the sneak peek of the canceled Homebrew Bestiary for the Far North created by [u/LordMarcusrax](#) for subreddit of The Witcher TTRPG.
- The changing-sex elixir serves both as a lore mechanism for players to create organically trans characters (similar to the disability DLC released by R. Talsorian) and as a reference to the sex-change process depicted in the Sci-Fi books of *The Culture* series by Iain M. Banks.

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